

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 353

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize James E. Fleeman of Lawrenceburg upon receiving the Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize those Tennesseans who have devoted so much of their lives to serving their communities and the people of this State;

WHEREAS, James E. Fleeman, is one such noteworthy individual, who recently received the prestigious Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award in recognition of his fifty years of aviation maintenance experience; and

WHEREAS, serving as the Wright brothers' mechanic, the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award is named in honor of the first aviation mechanic in powered flight, and recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics and the contributions they have made to aviation; and

WHEREAS, a man whose family name is synonymous with aviation in Lawrence County, Mr. Fleeman grew up the son of a carpenter who had a fascination with flight; after taking flight lessons, Mr. Fleeman's father purchased an Aeronca Champ airplane and turned the field behind their house into an airstrip.

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleeman and his brothers all learned how to fly when they were young, and they helped their father give airplane rides on Sunday afternoons for one dollar per passenger; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, Mr. Fleeman heroically and honorably served in the United States Air Force as chief of a maintenance crew at the Air Force base in Orlando, Florida, and he helped establish strategic air commands around the world; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, he returned to Lawrence County and landed employment as the manager of the local airport which he operated for ten years; and

WHEREAS, with his strong work ethic and determination, Mr. Fleeman received his commercial instructor license and aircraft mechanic license, dedicating his singular skills to instructing others to fly, piloting freight and passengers, and servicing aircraft; and

WHEREAS, with his good sense of direction and a steady hand, Mr. Fleeman served with acumen and alacrity as a charter pilot, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and passengers alike; and

WHEREAS, like Charles Taylor before him, Mr. Fleeman has left his indelible mark on the history of aviation in the State of Tennessee through years of dedicated service in the skies; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Louise Fleeman, who was also recognized by the FAA for her many contributions and support, and their children Joe, Janie, Danny, and Rex; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity who embodies the best of his community, Mr. Fleeman possesses a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age; he still enjoys helping his son, Joe Fleeman, with his airplane restoration projects, and he continues to fly as often as he can; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, James Fleeman has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, and he has come to stand as an example of the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize James E. Fleeman upon receiving the Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, applaud his vaunted

level of success and his dedication to excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.